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Russian jet with 50 aboard missing in Indonesia



AFP file picture taken on August 19, 2009, shows a Russian Sukhoi Superjet 100 performing during the MAKS 2009 international aerospace show outside Moscow.

JAKARTA (AFP) - A Russian Sukhoi Superjet 100 with about 50 people on board went missing in a mountainous area south of the Indonesian capital Jakarta during a demonstration flight yesterday, officials said.

The plane disappeared from radar screens 50 minutes into what was meant to be a brief flight and rescue teams were headed on foot by early today towards Salak mountain, where the plane went missing.

"We suspect the plane crashed, but we're not yet certain," rescue chief Marsdya Daryatmo told reporters sev-

eral hours after the disappearance.

"We tried to send two helicopters to search for the plane... but because of bad weather and strong winds they had to return. We will send them out again tomorrow," he said.

Two helicopters were forced to turn back yesterday night because of bad weather and poor visibility, Daryatmo said.

By midnight, hundreds of rescuers had set up three posts around the mountain.

Continued on page 6

Culturalization of Citizenship Conference begins at University of Aruba

An illustrious roster of international and local social researchers and experts gathered in the auditorium of the University of Aruba on Monday afternoon to begin two days of roundtable discussions regarding "Culturalization of Citizenship: Comparative Perspectives." The purpose of program is a study and discussion of all nationalities and ethnic groups which now comprise the Aruban population, towards devising a plan which will stimulate and instill a sense of community for all living on Aruba, no matter their origins.

As stated by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, (FAS) Dr. Paula Kibbelaar, this conference "is a natural follow-up" to the Happy Community Conference conducted by the government in December of last year. This is also an NWO (Dutch Scientific Organization) research project and has been conducted within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in a few European countries, and the Southern Hemisphere to analyze the effects of 'culture' on migrant workers. Presently, 30% of Aruba's permanent resident population was not born on the island.

Present for the opening of the program was the Rector of the U of A, Glenn Thode, Minister of Integration, Infrastructure and Environment, Benny Sevinger and Prime Minister Mike Eman, who delivered the keynote speech. FAS Dean Dr. Paula Kibbelaar officially welcomed the visiting educators and social researchers. She stated the December Happy Community Conference was "inspiring" but they need to continue the event and make it more sustainable with various stakeholders on Aruba. This resulted in an invitation to one of the keynote speakers, Dr.



Peter Geschiere, Benny Sevinger, PM, Glenn Thode Evelien Tonkens.jpg

Evelien Tonkens, of the University of Amsterdam, to return to be a featured participant in the current event. She cited the belief of the organizers that for this conference to be truly effective, it needed to be an interactive, roundtable discussion platform, while encouraging local community "thinkers" and activists to participate and provide their input. It is their first hand knowledge that will allow the study to relate the NWO research project's finding to Aruba, and to help them understand "What kind of processes are taking place in Aruba that conceptualizes who belongs to Aruba and who does not-and why?...at some point we have to define, "Who is an Aruban-and what does that mean to them? How do we think and feel towards identity? Belonging...inclusion and exclusion?"

"NWO results have shown that the identification of imagined communities on a national local community's level is constructed by nostalgia, actions emotional and the functional. For us to survive and connect with migrants and local we have to find meaning in our lives to belong and participate."

Prime Minister Eman came

to the podium to issue a warm welcome to the visiting speakers and thank them for contributing their valuable time. He mentioned a comment made by Dr. Kibbelaar about how the discussion of "Who is an Aruban" should be taken "out of the rumshops" and elevated to a national level. Despite his joking reply "she should not underestimate the value of rumshop discussions," he explained there was also sincerity to his rejoinder. "That is where we start building the necessary support for the concepts of community building, which we will support here on the educational level at the end of these debates." The University will issue a paper on the conclusions of the conference.

"For us, as government," continued the PM, "it is very important that we have this discussion. We started two years ago to reflect on the need of community building and the importance of creating the platform, grounds and goals which will unite our society and make it interesting for our citizens to believe in the future of their island, they belong to that society, and they have a responsibility, as well as a right, to be part of that society."

Continued on page 3



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At last....San Nicolaas Water Tower to be restored!



In a festive atmosphere, a list of dignitaries were at hand to initiate the restoration of the long-forgotten San Nicolaas Water Tower. Among them, Vice President of Parliament Chris Dammers, Prime Minister Eman, Minister of Finance de Meza and Minister of Environment Benny Sevinger. After a long wait of 15 years, we were finally witness to the start of the repair and restoration of one of San Nicolaas' most visible and revered monuments.

The ALBO company won the Public Tender to execute the tedious and delicate work of restoring this tower to its

original glory of the 1930's when it was inaugurated together with its twin sister tower in Oranjestad.

The Bureau of Monuments will be in charge of the supervision of the work directed by its director, Yvonne Webb.

Yvonne Webb in her speech to the crowd gathered around mentioned that the San Nicolaas Water Tower dates back to 1939 and was a design of architect Peter Stuijvenberg. The Water Tower was the property of WEB NV but was bequeath to the Bureau of Monuments in 1996. However, because of the huge expense to repair it, nothing was done all these years.

Thanks to the National Restoration Foundation of Holland and our own Caribbean Mercantile Bank who approved the funds, that the Bureau of Monuments is now able to embark on the restoration of the Tower.

Engineer Matthew of Plan D2 collaborated greatly with the plans for the renovation of the Tower. Reportedly, the renovation took so long that the

Tower has begun to lean to the side. Based on certain tests conducted, if nothing is done to the Tower within 5 years it would most probably topple. For this reason everyone is very pleased that the restoration has finally begun.

It is expected that by next year April the Water Tower's renovation should be completed. The local utility companies will rent space in the Tower and place a permanent exhibition in the building.

During his speech at the Water Tower, Minister Sevinger reported on other projects in San Nicolaas. He mentioned the work in the Sint Maartenstraat which is confronting a few challenges. He made also mention of the Village Projects 2 and 3 which is due to be submitted for financing.

Both of these projects have to do with renovations and are connected to each other and will culminate into a market place behind the San Nicolaas Water Tower.

Van der Sloot challenges extradition to U.S.

(CNN) -- Joran van der Sloot told a judge and prosecutor yesterday that he would prefer to finish serving a 28-year murder sentence in Peru rather than be extradited to the United States to face charges related to the disappearance of Natalee Holloway, his Peruvian lawyer, Maximo Altez, said.

Representatives from the U.S. Embassy and the FBI attended the extradition hearing, which was not open to the public, Altez added.

A conviction in the United States could affect van der Sloot's chances of being paroled in Peru, said Altez. He noted that a long-standing extradition treaty between the two countries means that van der Sloot will likely be extradited, despite his stated preference about remaining in Peru.

"The power of the United States will assure that Joran has to face a U.S. judge and I think the extradition will happen probably in two or three months," Maximo Altez said.

Peruvian judges in January sentenced the Dutchman to 28

years in prison for the murder in 2010 of Stephany Flores. He is also the prime suspect in the disappearance of Holloway. U.S. authorities want to try van der Sloot on charges of extortion and wire fraud in the Holloway case.

"He will go to trial in the United States. Once he is sentenced, he will return to Peru to finish serving his 28 years, and then go back to the States to serve whatever sentence he gets there," Altez said last month.

In June 2010, a federal grand jury in Alabama indicted him after allegations that he tried to extort \$250,000 from Holloway's mother, Beth Holloway. Van der Sloot offered to provide what turned out to be bogus information about the whereabouts of Holloway's remains in exchange for the money, according to the indictment.

He was allegedly given \$25,000, which authorities say he used to travel to Peru for a poker tournament.

If found guilty of extortion, he could be sentenced to 25 years in prison.

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Planned clean-up action for city center

Contractors working with both DOW and Serlimar are participating in a planned clean-up action which began last Tuesday in the city center of Oranjestad. Ing. Gaby Werleman of the Ministry of Environment, who is in charge of environmental affairs, explained how the work is to be carried out. Specific teams will be assigned special tasks: some will cut trees, remove debris, and others will clean-up the streets and side walks and parking areas. Others will fix broken side walks, repair traffic signs and paint where necessary.

Werleman indicated that they are planning to do this work between Tuesday and Friday to try and give the city center a nice and clean appearance. The clean-up action is intended to cover the area between the Wilhelminastraat and Emanstraat, and from Peanuts Restaurant to the Havenstraat. In the event the work progresses rapidly they may even cover other areas.

They plan to also place large Serlimar trash containers at different locations. One such container will be placed on the



parking lot in front of Hotel Central. An other will be placed behind Botica Oduber at the end of the mainstreet, and one behind Bon Bini Bazaar. People living in the area and businesses are en-

couraged to make good use of this opportunity to get rid of their bulk debris by depositing it in these containers. The collected trash will then be removed and dumped at Parkietenbos.

Culturalization of Citizenship

Continued from page 1

He commented on how in these modern times, attention to career, urbanization, self-centered individualism and materialism, have been noted in studies to contribute to the erosion of the traditional community cohesion which his administration would hope to see preserved on Aruba, as this island is not immune to any of these elements. "It is this cohesion which we find so important to the people of Aruba, an enormous longing for the days when neighbors really cared for each other, when sharing was not an issue, it was a tradition. It was not unusual that a fortunate individual who had attained an education gave their time freely to provide classes for the children in the neighborhood."

"Social fibers in our communities are stressed, in Aruba it is no different than in other western countries; somewhat less perhaps, but we still see that eroding effect of high ambition for material wealth which stresses the other aspects that make life enjoyable: friendship, solidarity within in a neighborhood, the element of people really caring about each other in the community, not just because they are a friend, but just because we are fellow human beings." He concluded that these things need to be taught, and a sense of moral obligation needs to be instilled to bring this to bear.

Speakers for that afternoon were Dr Tonkens and Dr. Peter Geschiere, also from the Uni-



Dr. Francio Guadaloupe

versity of Aruba, with opening discussion of the principal topic. The seminar finished on Tuesday evening with a public evening to present some of the discussion to the community, centered around a panel discussion featuring Dr. Geschiere, Dr. Francio Guadaloupe, Dr. Luc Alofs of Aruba, and the Minister of Social and Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, chaired by Dr. Tonkens.

Other presenters during Tuesday's roundtable discussions were guest speakers Prof Aloksua Adamako Ampofo, Director of the Institute of African Studies, Ghana and Roger van Reekum MA University of Amsterdam. Locally based speakers included Minister Sevinger, Dr. Alofs and DRS. Martijn Balkestijn, Acting Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

by Rosalie Klein

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Guru Dushyant Savadia of the Art of Living Foundation speaks to island youth



Krishna Gupta acts he introduces Guru Dushyant Savadia



Guru Dushyant Savadia with Niti and Prakash Gupta

Guru Dushyant Savadia, a teacher with the Art of Living Foundation welcomed members of Aruba's Junior Parliament and the Key Club for a discussion of the foundation's philosophy and teachings on Tuesday afternoon.

A basic philosophy of the worldwide non-profit organization founded 33 years ago by Sudarshan Kriya Yogi, with centers in 153 countries, is one of removing stress and bringing joy into one's life, and so positively affecting the people and environment around us. A very basic part of this is founded on breathing techniques, known as S.K.Y., along with certain exercises and advanced methods of achieving

inner peace along with full potential.

"Most importantly, people must understand this is not a religion," he emphasizes, "the arts of breathing and meditation are for all, no matter your faith," claims Guru Dushyant Savadia, who is on island conducting his second four-day basic program which began Tuesday evening and will finish Friday, May 11. The Art of Living Foundation on Aruba is also beginning with Youth Empowerment Seminars, or YES, to help teenagers better cope with coming of age and finding their positive goals and place in society.

Continued on page 5

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Police: Celebrity hairdresser Vidal Sassoon dead

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Pioneering celebrity hairdresser Vidal Sassoon died yesterday at his California home, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) said. He was 84.

Officers were called to his home on Hollywood's storied Mulholland Drive. He appeared to have died of natural causes, said LAPD spokesman Kevin Maiberger. Family members were present at the time.

Referred to by some as the "founder of hairdressing," he is said to have pioneered the bob haircut and, after opening his first salon in London in 1954, launched a network of outlets around the world.

Sassoon, who grew up in England, had reportedly been fighting leukemia, according to the LA Times, although no further details were immediately available on the cause of death.



The flamboyant hairstylist, who launched a successful hair-care product range and had a US television talk show at one point, was married four times, the newspaper said. He married his last wife Ronnie seven years ago.

Sassoon had four children with his second wife, Beverly,

a sometime film and television actress, usually billed as Beverly Adams.

None of the children went into the family business. The eldest, Catya, an actress and model, died in her sleep on New Year's Day 2002 of an accidental overdose.

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Prince Willem- Alexander and Princess Máxima to visit Brazil

THE HAGUE -- Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima are to pay an official visit to Brazil towards the end of the year.

The government information service has announced that the royal visit will last from 19 to 23 November. The crown prince and his wife will first visit the capital Brasília, later followed by Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

The visit is intended to reinforce ties between the two countries, with a focus on economic cooperation, innovation and science.

The royal visit is prompted by the notion that Brazil is an emerging market offering many opportunities to Dutch businesses.

Willem-Alexander and Máxima will meet Brazilian ministers and government officials, pay working visits to companies and attend seminars.

The couple will be accompanied by the outgoing deputy economic affairs minister and a large delegation of Dutch businessmen.

Dutch princess stops working for The Elders

Princess Mabel, a daughter-in-law of Queen Beatrix, has resigned as general director of The Elders, a thinktank created by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The organisation says the princess made the decision to step down after her husband Prince Friso was seriously injured in a skiing accident in February. The prince is in a coma and is being cared for in a London hospital.

The thinktank says Princess Mabel will continue to work part-time as a senior adviser. She and the children will continue to live in London.

The princess took up the post of general director on 1 July 2008. The Elders is an independent group of global leaders, formed by Nelson Mandela and including Kofi Annan, Mary Robinson and Jimmy Carter, who work together to promote peace and human rights. The organisation is chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Guru Dushyant Savadia of the Art of Living . . .

Continued from page 4

He explained that understanding how negatively active affects an environment, creating discomfort and thus exacerbating the tension and negatively, can be alleviated once individuals understand the concept and take responsibility for the environment to which they contribute.

"Your concern about the environment is laudable, this is a good thing," he told his young audience, "but pollution is not only about plastic bottles and other physical things. What have you done to cleanse

your environment regarding your attitude? We are literally littering the environment with negative thinking."

Full Art of Living seminars cost 300 Aruban florins for an intensive 4-day session in the evenings from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM. The next AOL course will be in September when Guru Dushyant Savadia returns. For more information and inscription, inquire via e-mail: aolaruba@gmail.com or call 737-3743 or 562-4722. For more tidbits of wisdom from



Guru Dushyant and snippets of philosophy to integrate into your daily life, visit his personal

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by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama backs same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Barack Obama became the first US president yesterday to say publicly he was in favor of same-sex marriage, in a high-stakes intervention in a pre-election debate roiling American politics.

In what supporters will hail as a historic moment in civil rights history, Obama changed his stance, after previously saying he was "evolving" on gay marriage, a fiercely divisive issue in US politics.

"I've just concluded, for me, personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married," Obama said in an interview with ABC News.

Obama, who had previously backed strong protections for gay and lesbian couples, said his position had evolved partly after talking to his two daughters Malia and Sasha who had some friends who had same-sex parents.

"It wouldn't dawn on them that somehow their friends' parents would be treated differently. It doesn't make sense to them and frankly, that's the kind of thing that prompts a change in perspective," Obama

said in the interview.

Obama came under increasing political pressure on gay marriage after Vice President Joe Biden said on NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday that he was "absolutely comfortable" with same-sex marriage.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said this week that he was also in favor of the concept.

Some political analysts have warned that Obama could be entering a political minefield, with some key voting blocs in swing states that he hopes to court in November's election opposing gay marriage.

On Tuesday, voters in North Carolina, a state Obama narrowly carried in the 2008 election, approved a state constitutional amendment forbidding gay marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships.

The measure was passed by 61 percent to 39 percent after similar state constitutional amendments have been approved in some 30 US states.

The amendment solidifies and expands already enacted North Carolina law forbidding same-sex marriage.

Russian jet with 50 aboard missing ...

Continued from page 1

Reports of the exact number on board varied, with local rescue officials saying it was carrying 46 people and Trimarga Rekatama, the company responsible for inviting the passengers, saying 50 were on board.

Herry Bakti, head of the aviation division of Indonesia's transport ministry, said Superjet

was on the second of two demonstration flights, and those on board were invited guests.

A list of 36 passenger names posted at Halim airport showed most of them were Indonesian airline and aviation officials, plus five journalists and a representative of French aircraft engine maker SNECMA with a Vietnamese name.

The Superjet made its first commercial flight last year and if a major accident is confirmed it would be the first disaster to involve the aircraft.

The Superjet 100 is a new passenger aircraft built by legendary Russian planemaker Sukhoi in an attempt to lift the country's civil aviation industry from a post-Soviet crisis.

Noriega back in hospital

PANAMA CITY (AFP) - Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was transferred from prison to a hospital yesterday after suffering a respiratory infection, one of his daughters said.

Thais Noriega, the youngest of his three daughters, said her father was taken to the Santo Tomas hospital in Panama City because he had bronchitis and was running a high fever.

"It's not a routine check-up, and he didn't have an appointment. He's had a fever since yesterday, and they are going to keep him hospitalized today," she said.

The 78-year-old has been imprisoned in the El Renacer Penitentiary on the banks of the Panama Canal since December 11, 2011 when he was brought back to the country after 21 years in prison in the United States and France on drug trafficking and money laundering charges.

Noriega, a former CIA informer who was overthrown in a US invasion in 1989, has been in and out of the Santo Tomas hospital three times since his return.

His lawyers, who say he is in poor health, have asked that the former general be allowed to serve out his term in a hospital setting or at home. Panama's courts have yet to respond to the request.



COLOMBIA, Bogotá : Venezuelan presidential candidate and Governor of Miranda state Henrique Capriles Radonski (C) is greeted by Venezuelans residents in Colombia after a meeting in Bogota on May 09, 2012 .Capriles made a comparison between the proposals of his alliance of parties and Chávez's proposals. "The proposals of this government for the next 6 years are: Threats, insults, and scaring people to death," Capriles said. "Our proposals for a future of progress include security, quality jobs for all, efficient education and health," he said in another message posted on the social network. (AFP)



CHILE, Santiago : A man drives his solar vehicle during the presentation of the Atacama Solar Challenge car race in Santiago on May 9, 2012. The race will take place next November 2012 in the Atacama desert in northern Chile. (AFP PHOTO)

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International News

Sarkozy holds 'emotional' last French cabinet meet



vote on June 10 and 17.

Winning in June will be crucial for the Socialists as the president requires a parliamentary majority to maintain a government -- otherwise the prime minister is in charge of the cabinet.

Sarkozy's ministers were also starting to focus on the vote, with the trade and tourism minister, Frederic Lefebvre, saying the centre-right UMP was confident of claiming a majority in parliament.

"Five weeks from now is the moment of reconquest, five weeks from now is the road to hope," he said.

Sarkozy indicated on Sunday that he was retiring from frontline politics.

His communications advisor Franck Louvrier said Sarkozy was preparing to return to his former life as a lawyer at the Paris firm he still partly owns, after taking a break with his wife Carla Bruni and their baby daughter.

Hollande is facing a packed international agenda after his inauguration and pressure was already building on the Socialist to stand by France's austerity commitments.

PARIS (AFP) - Outgoing French leader Nicolas Sarkozy's cabinet met for a last session Thursday as president-elect Francois Hollande began talks with EU leaders on his plans to refocus European policy on growth.

Sarkozy's cabinet meeting was "emotional", participants said, with ministers giving the outgoing president a standing ovation after he told them he wished Hollande "good luck" following his election win.

"Nicolas Sarkozy's main commitment in 2007, to put France on the move, has been met," Prime Minister Francois Fillon said after the session.

Government spokeswoman Valerie Pecresse said Fillon would tender the cabinet's resignation on Thursday and that it would take effect when Hollande is inaugurated on May 15.

Hollande meanwhile met with senior party officials at his campaign headquarters, where talks focused on securing the Socialists a majority in the two-round parliamentary

Blast hits UN observer convoy in Syria



DARAA (AFP) - A roadside blast hit troops escorting UN observers in Syria's south, a day after envoy Kofi Annan warned that his peace plan could be the last chance to avoid civil war.

The bomb, apparently planted underground, wounded six Syrian soldiers escorting the convoy as it entered the city of Daraa, cradle of a 14-month uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Major General Robert Mood, the head of the UN mission, was in the four-vehicle

convoy but escaped unharmed along with 11 other observers and his spokesman, Neeraj Singh, said an AFP photographer travelling with them.

The Norwegian general said the attack was "a graphic example of violence that the Syrian people" were suffering on a daily basis.

The opposition Syrian National Council accused the regime of being behind the blast, the latest breach of a month-old ceasefire agreement brokered by UN-Arab League envoy Annan.

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Qaeda chief slams US sorry for Koran burning

DUBAI (AFP) - Al-Qaeda head Ayman al-Zawahiri rejected the US apology over the burning of Koran copies at a base in Afghanistan, urging all Muslims to support the Taliban, SITE Intelligence Group reported Wednesday.

"The Crusaders once again repeated their crime by insulting the holy Koran, and once again mocked the messenger of Allah," Zawahiri said in a SITE English-language translation of his nearly seven-minute message.

In February, thousands of Afghan protesters attacked the biggest US military base in their country, at Bagram near Kabul, reacting to reports that troops inside had burned copies of the Koran.

Around 40 people were killed in several days of violent protests.

American officials say the



Korans had been confiscated from prisoners as they used them to communicate between each other. The incident led US President Barack Obama to apologise for what he described as an error.

In Wednesday's video which the US-based SITE said was posted on extremist forums, Zawahiri criticised Obama's apology.

"After each of their crimes, they pretend to be sorry, and they claim they will investigate what happened, which is a silly farce that Obama and his secretary repeated this time

also," said the chief of the terror network.

"The American Crusaders and their allies showed over and over again their hatred and envy of Islam, the book of Islam, the prophet (of) Islam," Zawahiri said.

He urged Muslim across the world to "fight the enemies of Allah and the enemies of His Messenger."

Zawahiri delivered a similar message in March, urging Afghans to rise up against "Crusader pigs" after US Marines were shown in an Internet video urinating on the corpses of Taliban militants.

A fresh scandal has rocked the alliance between the United States and the Afghan government every month this year in their joint efforts against Taliban insurgents.

A US soldier in March went on the rampage and murdered 17 Afghan villagers in their homes.

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Health & Living

Testosterone injections can aid weight loss

PARIS (AFP) - Obese older men with low testosterone levels can lose weight by taking supplements of the male hormone, according to the findings of a study released.

In a test group of 115 testosterone-deficient men with a mean age of 61, hormone injections over five years yielded an average weight loss of 16 kilograms (35 pounds), said the study presented to the European Congress on Obesity in Lyon, France.

The mean waist circumference fell from 107 centimeters (42 inches) to 98 cm (38.5 inches).

"Raising serum testosterone to normal reduced body weight, waist circumference and blood pressure, and improved metabolic profiles," said a statement on the study led by Farid Saad of German pharmaceutical giant Bayer Pharma.

The improvements were progressive over the five years of the study.

"Increased testosterone levels improve energy and motivation to do physical exercise and more movement in general; testosterone also increases lean body mass (fat free mass), increasing the energy used by patients," the statement said.

Approached for comment, Sanjay Kinra, an obesity expert and researcher at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, urged caution.

"It is quite possible that a drug that is improving the mood of middle-aged people over a period of time will likely make them a bit more active and help them lose a little bit of weight, but it is a serious drug, testosterone, and it causes serious health effects," he told AFP.

Testosterone, a steroid hormone secreted by the male testes and to a lesser extent by the female ovaries that affects brain development and sexual behaviour, has been linked by some researchers to prostate cancer and heart disease.

Kinra said there were "hundreds of things out there" that could make people lose weight in the short term, but only a change of lifestyle would ensure a long-term thinner self.

"As a mass treatment of obesity it (testosterone) is not meaningful because you are not going to trade off your risk of getting prostate cancer or heart disease for a bit of weight loss that is not going to be lifelong anyway, it will only remain for the time that you are on testosterone."

US urges circumcision for soldiers to fight HIV in Africa

(AFP) - Male circumcision is the best way to prevent new HIV infections in the military, the head of US anti-AIDS efforts told a gathering of top army brass from Africa, Eastern Europe and central Asia.

"We believe male circumcision is a highly significant, lifetime intervention. It is a gift that keeps on giving. It makes a lot of sense to put extraordinary resources into it," US global AIDS coordinator Eric Goosby told the 400 delegates.

The meeting on AIDS and the military gathered officials from 80 countries, including most of Africa but also countries from Surinam to Georgia and Estonia.

Studies show that circumcision can dramatically reduce HIV infections. One study in South Africa last year found new infections fell by 76 percent after a circumcision programme was launched in a township.

In 2006, trials in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa found foreskin removal more than halved men's risk of HIV infection. Longer-term analysis has found the benefit to be even greater than thought, with a risk reduction of around 60 percent.

The United States is sponsoring programmes in several African countries with a goal of circumcising four million men by 2013.

Results so far are patchy. Although Kenya is close to reaching its target of 80 percent of sexually active men, Uganda has achieved less than five percent of its target.

"We need the military to take up some of these circumcisions," said Caroline Ryan of the US Global AIDS Coordinator's Office.

One issue she said, is that the surgery requires soldiers to recuperate for two to four days, meaning time off from the army.

Another concern, raised by South Africa, was how to marry traditional coming-of-age rites with the need for circumcisions to be carried out under surgical conditions.

"Traditional circumcision is part of the path to manhood. For us it is critical to be given strategies to deal with their concerns," South African Brigadier General Snowy Moremi.

Little data exists on HIV rates among soldiers. Few countries are willing to divulge statistics, fearing they will be perceived as weak.

Beijing to get rid of 1,200 polluting enterprises

Beijing (AFP) - Authorities in Beijing said they plan to get rid of 1,200 high-polluting enterprises such as foundries, chemical plants and furniture factories by 2015 to improve air quality in the Chinese capital, one of the world's most polluted cities.


The move follows a public backlash over the heavy smog that often envelops Beijing -- sometimes so thick that it delays planes and trains going to and from the city -- sparking health concerns among the general population.

Air quality in the capital has been bad for years, but netizens focused on it late last year after the US embassy started publishing its own pollution readings, which are often alarming.

The embassy measures PM2.5 -- the smallest, most dangerous pollution particles in the air -- and posts the results on a Twitter feed. They often rank as "very unhealthy" or "hazardous".

Beijing's government eventually caved into online pressure and said it would start publishing its own measures of PM2.5, as opposed to basing information on particles of 10 micrometres or larger, known as PM10, which are less harmful.

It has also set up bicycle rental kiosks in the city in a bid to ease traffic congestion -- another source of pollution. Authorities are also mulling new bike lanes.



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Small step in high heels; a giant leap for prosthetics?



PARIS (AFP) - Women in stilettos and ostriches have unwittingly contributed to scientific advancement by showing researchers how to design a prosthetic leg better adapted for walking.

The best prosthesis for above-knee amputees, and for humanoid robots, would work nothing like the human leg, scientists found, -- but like that of an ostrich or the synthetic limbs used by South African amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius.

"It now appears that making prosthetic feet -- for walking at least -- copying human feet too closely can be a mistake," study author Jim Usherwood of the Royal Veterinary College in London told AFP.

"If you want to make a good prosthetic foot but don't care what it looks like, you should put the motor -- in this case the ankle -- as far up the leg as possible."

Higher up, the ankle "can provide the power without making the feet heavy and hard to swing backwards and forwards," he added.

Usherwood and his team found that the human way of walking -- crashing on the heel, vaulting over the station-

ary leg and then pushing off with the toes, was the most economic given the shape of our foot -- a design which in some ways "does not make sense".

This walking method was "very unusual" outside the hominoidea family of apes and humans. Other bipedal animals like ostriches have no ground-striking heels, but rather extensive tendons that act as springs.

The human foot design evolved to accommodate our early survival needs to both walk and run quickly, and remained unchanged even after we lost the requirement for sprinting to catch prey or evade predators, according to the study published in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface.

The scientists observed that women in heels had to wiggle their bottoms to allow them to keep walking in the "crash, vault, push" pattern.

"The normal human foot and heel-sole-toe stance ... has the advantage that it allows those muscles powering the shove (calf) and absorbing the crash (shin) to be largely unloaded during the vault," said a statement.

"This is a benefit as muscles use energy when opposing force. But motors don't -- so prosthetics and robotics should not copy human feet."

The study concluded that "less human-like feet would allow the benefits of more natural human walking, in which steps are taken relatively quickly allowing relatively short steps and high walking speeds".

Double amputee Pistorius, dubbed the Blade Runner, has been at the centre of controversy with critics claiming his carbon fibre prosthetic legs gave him an advantage over able-bodied athletes in mixed competitions.



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Sci-Tech

Twitter challenges US subpoena seeking user data



(AFP) - Twitter is challenging a court order to turn over to law enforcement data on one of its users involved in Occupy Wall Street in a case described by a civil liberties group as a major test of online freedom of speech.

The motion filed in a New York state court said the order would require Twitter to violate federal law and denies the user the ownership rights to his Twitter messages.

The case involves a Twitter

user, Malcolm Harris, who is being prosecuted for disorderly conduct in connection with the Occupy Wall Street protest on the Brooklyn Bridge last year.

The American Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday applauded Twitter's action, saying the company was standing up for free speech.

"Law enforcement agencies, both the federal government and state and city entities, are becoming increasingly aggressive in their attempts to obtain information about what people are doing on the Internet."

"And while the individual Internet users can try to defend their rights in the rare circumstances in which they find out about the requests before their information is turned over,

that may not be enough."

Last month, a judge denied a motion by Harris to quash the subpoena, saying he lacked legal standing. The judge said the data stored on the Internet is not physical property and therefore does not have the same protection.

"As a user, we may think that (Internet) storage space to be like a 'virtual home,' and with that strong privacy protection similar to our physical homes," Judge Matthew Sciarino said in his April 20 ruling.

The judge also said that while a Twitter user's information and tweets contain a considerable amount of information about the user, "Twitter does not guarantee any of its users complete privacy."

COMICS

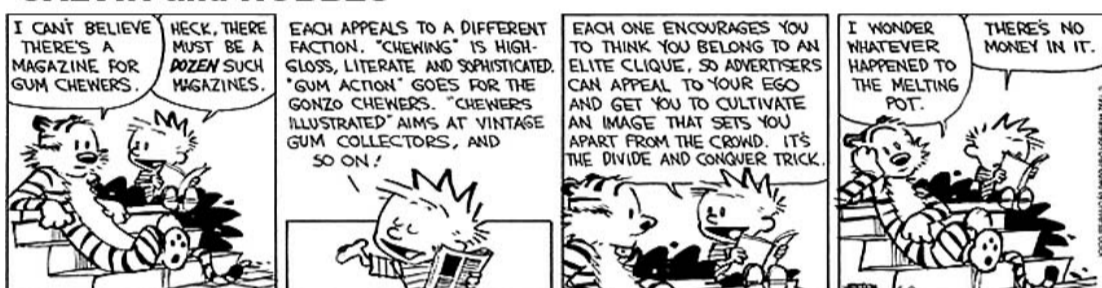
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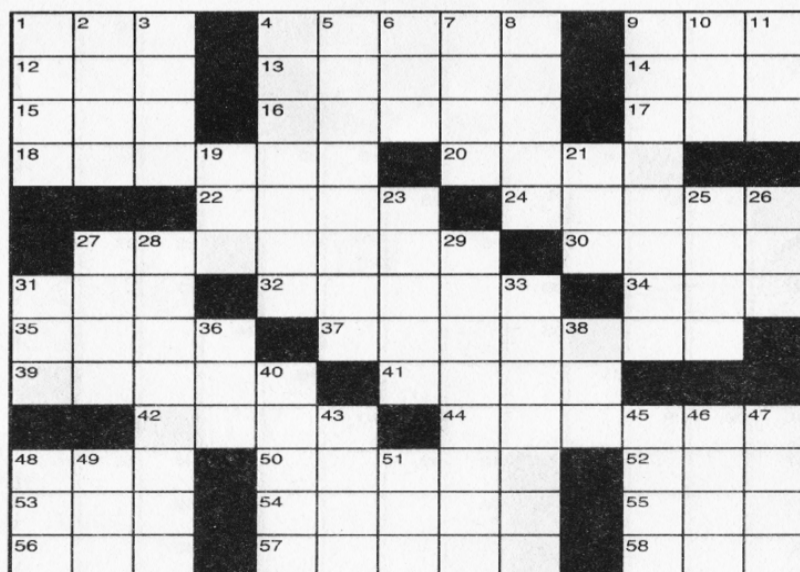
ACROSS

1. Will Smith boxing role
4. Tony of "Who's the Boss?"
9. Lyric lines
12. First-aid kit
13. Arctic, e.g.
14. French negative
15. Sister or cousin (abbr.)
16. Lee's foe
17. Actor Danson
18. Rico
20. Yes, informally
22. Slugger Ruth
24. Lance
27. Paper-folding art
30. Edible, tropical tuber
31. "Quiet!"
32. Laurel and Kenton
34. Business abbr.
35. Medical course (abbr.)
37. Earnest
39. Stupid people
41. Weaver's frame
42. Leak slowly
44. Ballot casters
48. Wedding words (2 wds.)
50. Angry with (2 wds.)
52. Actress — West
53. Additionally
54. Riled up

DOWN

1. Senior citizens' org.
2. In ___ of (instead of)
3. In need of work
4. GIs' IDs (2 wds.)
5. Circus performers
6. Teachers' gp.
7. Like the Marx
8. Chips in
9. Being televised (3 wds.)
10. Anonymous last name
11. Upshot
19. Diamond stat
21. Suitable
23. Internet messages (hyph.)
25. "Rosamond" composer
26. Mythical bird
27. "Say it isn't so!" (2 wds.)
28. Many a Liszt work
29. Be creative

31. Unhappy
33. Child's vehicle
36. Kickoff device
38. Rescue worker (abbr.)
40. Highway rigs
43. Remove rind
45. "Friends" baby
46. Hobo transportation
47. Black and Red
48. 007 creator Fleming
49. Basis of heredity (abbr.)
51. Mom's counterpart



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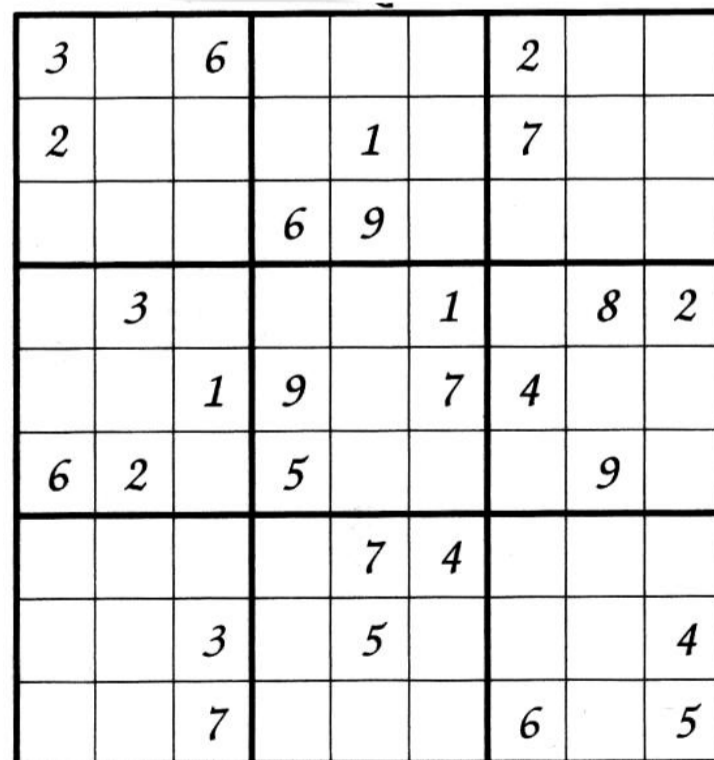
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	2	9	6	1	7	8	3	4
7	8	3	5	2	1	6	9	4
1	6	7	8	3	5	2	9	4
9	1	5	7	2	6	1	5	8
2	8	5	1	9	7	6	3	4
8	7	1	2	6	9	5	4	1
6	9	4	3	1	7	8	2	5
1	5	2	8	7	4	9	6	3

row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9




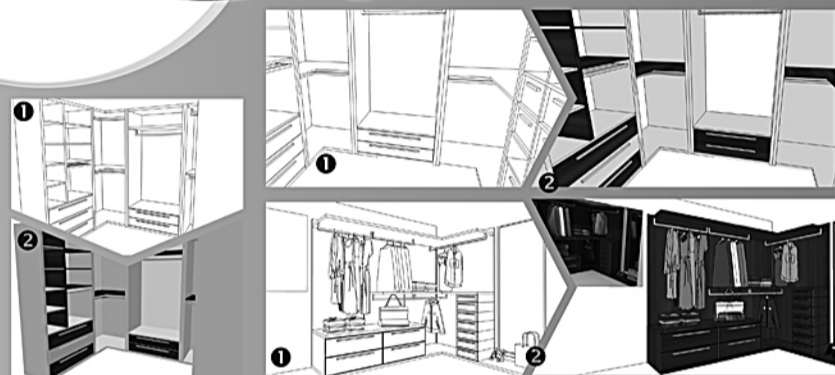
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Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of February 2012 indicates Aruba Net Foreign Assets increases

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of February 2012 that the money supply grew by Afl. 30.4 million to Afl. 3,233.9 million, resulting largely from an Afl. 28.7 million increase in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) to Afl. 1,373.2 million at the end of February 2012. The domestic component of the money supply also noted a slight rise of Afl. 1.6 million associated with an Afl. 27.3 million rise in domestic credit and an Afl. 25.6 million decline in the non-credit related balance sheet items. The latter was due largely to clearing transactions. Domestic credit grew because Afl. 40.9 million in net claim of the public sector on the banking sector recorded at the end of January 2012 turned into an Afl. 0.5 million net liability of the public sector to the banking sector at the end of February 2012, following an Afl. 41.4 million decline in government deposits. In contrast, claims of the banking sector on the private sector decreased by Afl. 14.1 million, reflecting declines in commercial loans and consumer credit of, respectively, Afl. 13.8 million (-


1.3 percent) and Afl 1.1 million (-0.2 percent), while housing mortgages grew by Afl 2.3 million (+0.3 percent).

The consumer price index (CPI) for February 2012 registered a 5.6 percent increase, compared to the same month of 2011. The main contributory components were housing, transport, and food items. When excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly affects the housing and transport components), the resulting core CPI shows a 1.4 percent rise compared to February 2011, which was brought about by increased prices of transport components excluding gasoline and diesel (i.e., airline tickets and new cars), recreation and culture (i.e., cable subscription), and restaurant and hotels (i.e., food and beverage consumption outside the home). The 12-month average inflation rate reached 5.2 percent in February 2012.

The number of stay-over visitors totaled 72,656 in February 2012, which is 5.7 percent higher compared to February 2011. This hike was mainly caused by a 42.5 percent (+ 3,536) growth in visitors from Latin America, attributed mostly to an increase of 2,496 visitors from Venezuela, due largely to

more flights in connection with Carnival, which this year was in February compared to March last year. The North American and European market remained practically unchanged. The number of cruise visitors grew by 3,850 passengers (+4.3 percent) to 94,234 passengers in the month of February 2012 compared to the same month of the previous year. Despite the expansion in cruise passengers, the number of ship calls dropped to 44 in February 2012 compared to 50 in February 2011.

Registered tax revenue for the month of February 2012 totaled Afl. 67.7 million, which is a reduction of Afl. 5.1 million (-7.0 percent) compared to the same month of the previous year, due largely to an Afl. 4.7 million (-17.3 percent) drop in receipts from income and profit tax. Small decreases were recorded in the revenues from the foreign exchange tax and the turnover tax (BBO), while slight increases were registered in income from taxes on commodities, taxes on property, and taxes on services. Non-tax revenue posted an Afl 7.2 million decrease in February 2012 when compared to the same month of last year.



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 05/09/2012

Currency	Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.75	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	191.89	192.61	193.41
Netherlands	EUR	228.56	230.65	232.96
Sweden	SEK	24.90	25.62	26.42
Denmark	DKK	30.06	30.78	31.58
Norway	NOK	29.53	30.25	31.05
Japan	JPY	221.92	223.95	226.20

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Finance

3 big Chinese banks to enter US banking market

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve announced yesterday that three major Chinese banks have won approval to enter the US banking market.

ICBC, China's biggest bank; Bank of China; and Agricultural Bank of China have been cleared to have branches in the United States, the Fed said.

The Fed authorized Bank of China to set up a branch in Chicago, and Agricultural Bank of China to establish one in New York City.

The board approved an application from Industrial and

Commercial Bank of China to buy a majority stake in the US subsidiary of Bank of East Asia, a deal that would make it the first Chinese state-controlled bank to acquire retail bank branches in the United States.

The US unit of Bank of East Asia operates 13 branches in New York and California.

ICBC has been the most aggressive of China's "big four" banks in expanding overseas.

ICBC has total assets of roughly \$2.5 trillion and the Chinese government owns some 70 percent of its shares, the Fed said.

Greece gets more cash as coalition talks fail

ATHENS (AFP) - Greek political parties yesterday failed to form a viable government amid warnings by creditors that a loan to be paid today could be the last if Athens failed to honour repayment commitments.

The warnings came after the leader of the radical left-wing party, who had been charged with forming a government, told international lenders that any cabinet he heads would renege on the terms of the 240-billion-euro (\$311 billion) bailout.

Late yesterday, Alexis Tsipras said however that he was giving up efforts to form a coalition government.

"We cannot make true our dream of a left-wing government," he told his Syriza parliamentary group which came second in the weekend election. "Tomorrow I shall hand back the mandate given to me by the president of the republic and we shall continue to take

part in the constitutional processes," he added.

It will now be Socialist leader, Evangelos Venizelos, whose party came third in Sunday's elections, to attempt to form a government.

"I will receive a mandate (to form a government) and continue the national effort," the Pasok leader said after meeting Tsipras.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	I	C	T	R	A	M	E	L	F
A	T	O	H	O	P	I	M	M	I
S	A	O	I	C	O	N	A	I	N
E	L	L	E	N	C	A	N	N	E
D	I	E	S	A	V	E	N	G	E
C	R	E	A	S	E	G	Y	M	S
					C	A	R	O	L
O	N	T	O	G	R	E	A	S	E
B	O	A	R	D	E	R	T	O	L
A	T	T	U	N	E		M	A	R
C	A	I	N	V	A	N	E	E	N
H	I	N	T	I	G	O	R	S	O
E	N	G		L	A	N	E	T	R

Dalai Lama to receive \$1.8m spiritual prize in London



LONDON (AFP) - The Dalai Lama will receive the 2012 Templeton Prize, one of the world's biggest monetary awards, in a ceremony at Saint Paul's Cathedral in London on May 14, organisers said Wednesday.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader will receive the £1.1 million (\$1.8 million, 1.4 million euro) prize for his work in encouraging scientific research and harmony among religions.

The event will be attended by thousands and broadcast on the Internet. The Dalai Lama will announce where the money will go at the ceremony. It will be the first time the Buddhist monk has visited the cathedral.

The Templeton Prize honours a living person who has

made an exceptional contribution to "affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works".

Established in 1972, it is one of the world's largest annual monetary awards given to an individual.

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, will receive the prize from John M. Templeton, son of the prize's founder.

"This is another sign of recognition about my little service to humanity, mainly non-violence and unity around different religious traditions," the 76-year-old said.

"I totally dedicated my life to bring a more close understanding among these different religious traditions.

Sri Lanka may start blending its pure Ceylon tea

(AFP) - Sri Lanka Tea Board chief Janaki Kuruppu said they were studying proposals to allow imported teas to be mixed with the more expensive Sri Lankan tea, better known by the country's former British colonial-era name "Ceylon".

She said the blending operation could boost overall tea revenue which is one of the main foreign exchange earners for the country.

Since tea was introduced to Sri Lanka in 1849 by a Scotsman, it has been a primary export but companies abroad are known to blend it with cheaper teas from several countries like Kenya, Indonesia and China, and sell it for less.

Kuruppu said Sri Lanka needed to take a "realistic view" of the global market and capitalise on the lucrative blending operations without losing the country's reputation as a source of highly aromatic tea.

Pure Ceylon tea is more expensive and is compared to the "single malt" of the whisky in-

dustry. An international blend would include Ceylon tea together with cheaper teas from several countries.

Kuruppu said any imports of tea for blending would be closely monitored to ensure high standards were maintained and that the reputation of the island's tea industry was preserved.

Sri Lanka sold 323 million kilos (710 million pounds) last year and earned \$1.49 billion, but Kuruppu said the country could substantially increase revenues through more value addition by way of blending.

Sri Lankan tea is used in international blends of multinational companies which operate tea processing facilities in the Middle East and Europe.

Indian consumer goods giant Unilever had planned to set up a processing plant in Sri Lanka in the late 1990s but shifted to Dubai as Colombo did not allow the import of tea for blending, fearing that such a move would dilute the image of the local product.



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Former backup singer wins 'Voice' honors



Last four finalist from left to right- Jermaine Paul - Chris Mann - Juliet Simms and Tony Lucca

(AFP) - A former backup singer for the likes of Alicia Keys moved up to the center stage of US pop music when he emerged the winner of season two of the popular, viewer-voted NBC reality talent show "The Voice."

Jermaine Paul, an R&B vocalist coached during the series by country star Blake Shelton, wiped back tears and hugged family members on stage before bringing the curtain down on the show with a cover of R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly."

"I want to say thank you to everybody that voted for me," said Paul, who collects a

\$100,000 prize and a recording contract.

He entered the contest in hopes of moving beyond his reputation as a backing vocalists for Keys, Mary J. Blige and Joss Stone.

Taking second place was California songstress Juliet Simms, the lone female among the four finalists on the show, an American adaptation of a Dutch reality TV contest with contestants mentored by celebrity coaches and ratings that rivaled the more established "American Idol."

Tony Lucca placed third in front of Chris Mann in a close vote.

Javier Colon, the Latino winner of series one in 2011, went on to record an album that spent just a week on the Billboard 200 charts. Series three is due to air in a few months.



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Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-



Stunning sunset



Risotto Frutti de Mare



conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-

mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

Jews stage pilgrimage to ancient Tunisia synagogue

DJERBA (AFP) - A Jewish pilgrimage to the oldest synagogue in Africa on Tunisia's Djerba island began Wednesday under tight security after it was cancelled last year following the revolution.

About 500 Jews from Europe and 1,000 Jewish Tunisians started gathering on the Mediterranean island before heading to the 2,500-year-old Ghriba synagogue, said Perez Trabelsi, head of the Tunisian Jewish community.

There were an estimated 100,000 Jews living in Tunisia when the north African country gained independence in 1956, but the vast majority quickly relocated to France, the former colonial power.

But, with roughly 1,500 members, Tunisia still has one of the largest Jewish communities in the Arab world.

The pilgrimage previously attracted tens of thousands of visitors, but turnout declined dramatically following an April 2002 attack at Ghriba claimed by Al-Qaeda that killed 21 people.

The event was cancelled last year with the country on

edge following a January uprising that toppled long-serving dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Tunisia's moderate Islamist Ennahda party that won October elections has pledged to protect the interests of the Jewish minority.

But the country has seen a rise in demonstrations by adherents of extreme-conservative Salafist strand of Islam who have called for the creation of a more rigid Islamic state in post-Ben Ali Tunisia.

"I was a bit reluctant, then I decided to come and I am delighted to be here today," said Cathy Koher, a French Jew of Polish origin who travelled to the island about roughly 500 kilometres (300 miles) from Tunis.

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki last month commemorated the 10-year anniversary of Al-Qaeda attack, which Jewish groups said was the first time a president had officially noted the occasion.

The synagogue dates back 2,500 years and, legend has it, was built by fleeing Jews following the destruction of Solomon's Temple.

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Blanc recalls Ben Arfa for Euro

PARIS (AFP) - Hatem Ben Arfa's outstanding season with Newcastle United earned him a call-up by France coach Laurent Blanc on Wednesday when he named the 12 foreign-based players he will take to the European Championship.

Ben Arfa, whose Newcastle team-mate Yohan Cabaye has also been selected after a fine debut season following his move from Lille, has not played for France since winning his eighth cap in a friendly in August 2010.

"I believe that he has reached a new level, both as much as a player as a person," said Blanc. "He is more ma-

ture, he is conscious of his talent but that he has to transfer it into benefiting his team and not just for himself.

"These players (like Ben Arfa) who are extremely talented find it hard to think that they are so good.

Ben Arfa has been reunited with his fellow 'golden generation' of players born in 1987 and later part of the team that won the European Under-17 championship, Karim Benzema and Samir Nasri.

Paris Saint Germain star Jeremy Menez is likely to be named by Blanc next week when he announces his 12 France-based players.

Blanc left out of the squad veteran strikers Djibril Cisse - who has had a poor spell at QPR marked by two sendings off - and the injury-prone Louis Saha.

Foreign-based players selected

Philippe Mexes (AC Milan/ITA), Adil Rami (Valencia/ESP), Patrice Evra (Manchester United/ENG), Gael Cllichy (Manchester City/ENG), Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal/ENG), Younes Kaboul (Tottenham/ENG), Florent Malouda (Chelsea/ENG), Samir Nasri (Manchester City/ENG), Hatem Ben Arfa (Newcastle/ENG), Yohan Cabaye (Newcastle/ENG), Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich/GER), Karim Benzema (Real Madrid/ESP).

Polish police bust hooligan battle suspects

WARSAW (AFP) - Poland's police have arrested 35 individuals suspected of taking part in organised fights between football-fan gangs, as the Euro 2012 co-host nation continues a crackdown on hooliganism.

The Central Investigation Bureau said on Wednesday that the suspects were snared in a sweep involving some 300 officers who raided 50 homes over two days.

The individuals are believed to have been involved in "ustawki", the notorious pre-arranged fights between rival teams' fans which have claimed several lives in Poland over recent years.

Police said they had been tracking the suspects since a pitched battle between dozens of the clubs' fans in November 2010, with all of them men aged between 20 and 40 who trained daily in martial arts and bodybuilding.

If tried and found guilty, they could face three years in prison.

Polish police estimate that the nation of 38 million has a hooligan hardcore of up to 5,000.

After last May's cup final trouble, away supporters of all Polish clubs were banned from the remaining matches of the season, and ad hoc bans for individual games have been imposed this term.

Hodgson to name England squad ahead of deadline

LONDON (AFP) - New England manager Roy Hodgson will name his squad for Euro 2012 next week, well in advance of the tournament deadline, as he looks to make his mark ahead of the tournament in Poland and Ukraine.

Hodgson could have delayed naming his first England squad until the UEFA deadline of May 23 but has decided to do so next week in a bid to create a measure of certainty ahead of a pre-tournament training camp in Spain and friendlies against Norway in Oslo and Belgium at Wembley.

One issue confronting Hodgson is to decide whether Chelsea's John Terry and Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand, long regarded as England's premier central defensive pairing, can still play together in light of allegations, due to be heard in court after Euro 2012 on July 9, Terry

racially abused Ferdinand's younger brother Anton during QPR's victory over Chelsea in October.

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Scott Parker captained England in caretaker manager Stuart Pearce's lone match in charge, a 3-2 friendly international defeat by the Netherlands at Wembley in February.

The England squad will meet up on Monday, May 21 and travel to Spain for a training camp.

They will fly from Spain to Oslo for the Norway friendly on May 26 and then be given two days off before meeting up again on May 29 to begin preparations for the match against Belgium on June 2.

Another two-day break is scheduled before the squad reconvene on June 5 and then travel to their Euro 2012 base in Krakow, Poland, the following day.

Spain can win Euro 2012 without Puyol - Casillas

MADRID (AFP) - Talismanic Barcelona defender Carles Puyol's likely absence from the Spanish national team due to injury is a big setback but the squad can still win Euro 2012, Spain captain and goalkeeper Iker Casillas said Wednesday.

Earlier Wednesday Puyol, whose header against Germany famously took Spain into the final of a victorious 2010 World Cup campaign, said he expects to undergo knee surgery over the weekend that will rule him out of Euro 2012.

Asked about Spain's chances at the tournament in Poland and Ukraine, Casillas said he believed the squad could retain their Euro title.

"We have the ability to win it, I say this emphatically. Spain can win this champi-

onship again," the 30-year-old Real player said.

"This time we are not in the same position as four years ago. At that time people expected that Spain would go as far as possible, and the team started to believe in its playing style, in its way of facing its rivals, and in the end we won the title.

"Now we will present ourselves as the world champions

and all teams, especially during the group stage, will do everything to try to beat us."

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has said he will release a provisional line-up on May 15 for the team going to Poland and Ukraine and a definitive list on May 27.

Spain, who are defending their European title, play their first game on June 10 against Italy.

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SPORTS

Boxing: British boxing chiefs condemn Haye-Chisora bout

LONDON (AFP) - British boxing's governing body has condemned the proposed 'grudge' match between former world heavyweight champion David Haye and Dereck Chisora and threatened sanctions towards anyone involved in the contest.

Chisora's licence to box was withdrawn "indefinitely" by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBoC) in March after an ugly press conference brawl with Haye following his unsuccessful heavyweight title challenge against reigning world champion Vitali Klitschko in Munich the previous month.

Haye does not hold a valid licence to box in Britain after announcing his retirement last year following his defeat by Wladimir Klitschko.

But although the clash between the British boxers is scheduled to take place at West Ham football club's Upton Park stadium in east London on July 14, it is doing so under the auspices of the little-known Luxembourg Boxing Federation rather than the BBBoC.

Chisora's promoter Frank Warren has insisted he is not trying to undermine the BBBoC but the board are adamantly opposed to the con-

test, saying in a statement Wednesday: "Those behind this proposal are not concerned with the interests of the sport of professional boxing.

Although the board's threat is unlikely to mean much to either Haye or Chisora, who are both without a licence, if followed through it could have implications for Warren, one of British boxing's leading promoters.

As both Haye and Chisora are unlicensed rather than banned, it is easier for the Luxembourg Boxing Federation, under the rules of the European Boxing Union, to sanction the contest.

Haye and Chisora's camps were separated by a seven-foot steel fence at a press conference to announce the bout on Tuesday.

But the wire barrier did not

prevent the two men from trading verbal insults, if not actual punches.

"He is the ideal opponent for me," Haye said. "I am so glad he has got a good chin because if he didn't have a good chin he would be blasted out in first round. This means I will give him a nice, slow, concussive beating."

Chisora responded by saying: "I don't like him. David, you need to get style. Your corn rows are out of fashion.

Meanwhile Warren said: "This is not the end of British boxing. "I believe it will be a sell out, a huge event. There are far far worse things happening in sport than what's happening here.

The fight is likely to be the biggest British heavyweight bout since Lennox Lewis fought Frank Bruno in 1993.

Football: Brazilian govt step in to avoid World Cup collapse

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - The appointment of an ally of Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff to the organising committee of the 2014 World Cup was widely seen by sports experts in the South American country as a last ditch effort to avoid the tournament collapsing.

World governing body FIFA announced in Zurich that the Brazilian government would have a representative on the Local Organising Committee (LOC), which had until now been headed by Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) president Jose Maria Marin and ex-football stars Ronaldo and Bebeto.

The executive-secretary of the Ministry of Sport, Luis Fernandes, has been appointed as an LOC representative, which will start meeting every six to eight weeks to discuss preparation.

Despite pouring millions of dollars into the construction and modernisation of stadiums, airports, roads and public transport for the World Cup, work is seriously behind schedule.

FIFA fear that some stadiums - including the mythical Maracana in Rio where the final will be played - will not be ready to host the Confederations Cup in June 2013, considered as a test run for the World Cup.

The decision that FIFA and

Rousseff's government would take over the organisation was taken "because it was perceived that it didn't make sense that those who paid the bills were not represented in the LOC," sports commentator Juca Kfourri from the daily O Estado de Sao Paulo told AFP.

It is the second time in history that a government has intervened in the organisation of a World Cup, after the previous edition in South Africa.

"Brazil is an emerging power but it is a poor country, with deep economic problems, and FIFA have high expectations. The Cup has to meet universal criteria and Brazil isn't in a position to do this if the government isn't part of the organisation," said another sports expert Marcos Guterman.

During the meeting it was also decided that Marco Polo del Nero, a Brazilian representative at FIFA, would also join the LOC, and that the FIFA committee would meet every six to eight weeks until 2014.

FIFA president Joseph Blatter, clarified that the only intermediaries would be the Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo and FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke.

Valcke had just months ago caused uproar over his comments that the Brazilian organizers needed a "kick up the backside" to hasten lagging preparations for the event.

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TAMPA	19	11	.633	--	ATLANTA	19	12	.613	--
YANKEES	16	13	.552	2.5	NY METS	17	13	.567	1.5
TORONTO	16	14	.533	3.0	MIAMI	15	15	.500	3.5
BOSTON	12	17	.414	6.5	PHILADELPHIA	14	17	.452	5.0
Central					Central				
CLEVELAND	17	12	.586	--	ST. LOUIS	19	11	.633	--
DETROIT	15	14	.517	2.0	CINCINNATI	15	14	.517	3.5
CHICAGO	14	17	.452	4.0	HOUSTON	14	16	.467	5.0
KANSAS	10	19	.345	7.0	PITTSBURG	13	16	.448	5.5
MINNESOTA	8	21	.276	9.0	MILWAUKEE	13	17	.433	6.0
West					West				
TEXAS	20	10	.667	--	LA DODGERS	19	11	.633	--
OAKLAND	16	14	.533	4.0	SAN FRANCISCO	15	15	.500	4.0
SEATTLE	14	18	.438	7.0	ARIZONA	14	17	.452	5.5
LA ANGELES	13	18	.419	7.5	COLORADO	12	17	.414	6.5
					SAN DIEGO	11	20	.355	8.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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Despite magnificent performance, Jemal & Allyson comes short!



Jemal Le Grand

Spectacular Aruban swimmers, Jemal Le Grand and Allyson Ponson, presented a magnificent performance during the classification try-outs for the 2012 London Olympic Games. Despite their tremendous performance and breaking their own records, they came short of classifying for the 2012 Games.

During the International competition, organized by Stingway Swimming, Jemal and Ally competed with their eyes and hopes on classifying for the 2012 London Games.

Jemal Le Grand's swimming time on Saturday in the 100m free was 52.39...his best

time. With that time, he broke his own personal record, swimming at 51.99. Despite this excellent performance, Jemal did not reach the required classification time set by the 2012 London Olympic Games, which is 50.53. Jemal undoubtedly came very close and still stands a chance to achieve this in the 2 try-out competitions yet to come.

On the other hand, our athlete of the year, Allyson Ponson, achieved a 26.83 on her first 50m free. Allyson came very, very close with a time of 26.88. However, like Jemal she too did not achieve the required time to classify. The re-

quired time set by the Olympic Games is 26.15.

On Sunday, again Sally came very close to her personal record when she swam a time span of 58.31 in the 100m. Her personal record was 58.30!

In her final attempt in the 50m free, Allyson swam 26.66 and broke her personal record, bringing her closer to the classification time.

Contrary to Jemal, Allyson still has one try-out competition to determine whether she would still classify for the 2012 London Olympic Games. Both athletes performed fabulously during the two days of competition. They are obviously improving greatly. We are certain that soon they will be able to classify. We wish them much luck and God's speed in the upcoming try-outs.

Here is an overview of their times:

For Jemal:
50m free 24.23 and the classification time was 22.88 (- 1.35 sec)

100m free 51.99 and the classification time was 50.53 (- 1.46 sec)



Allyson Ponson

For Ally:	100m free 58.31 and the classification time was 56.48 (-1.83 sec)
50m free 26.66 and the classification time was 26.15 (-0.51 sec)	

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